



Lachlan O'Reilly wins State Title

Lismore Kart Club junior, Lachlan O'Reilly driving an Australian designed and manufactured "AZZURRO" junior kart, won his first State Title at Darwin recently in a hotly contested Junior National Light final.

Lachlan recorded the fastest time of the final late in the race and had been one of the drivers to beat since going out on the track in his older model AZZURRO kart in Thursday's unofficial practice sessions.

The Race Director was serious about keeping things clean (as the Darwin Karting Association are used to at their club days) and were quick to penalise on track indiscretions, and through no fault of his own, Lachlan started and finished the race meeting being called to the Stewards room.

A driver was given a 5 point penalty after three drivers including Lachlan crashed out on the first lap of heat one. Lachlan's only testimony was that he got hit so hard from behind that it bent his 40mm axle like a banana as he shot off into the gravel, able only to bump his way back to the pits to avoid the ride back on the pick up vehicle. Other drivers called up testified that young Queensland driver Dalton Ellery had been hit so hard from behind, that he rammed into and then over Lachlan, bending both Lachlan's axle and Daltons frame.

Lachlan was again called in front of the Stewards after the final, where all the witnesses from both sides verified that contact had been made with Lachlan's kart when leading at the final corner on the last lap, in direct contravention to the warning given at the drivers briefing on

both Saturday and Sunday and Lachlan was awarded the win. All times and results are to be found on MyLaps.com or via the link on the DKA website.

It was the O'Reilly's third trip to the top end for the annual event, and first time by car with kart trailer in tow, an 8000km round trip.

Lachlan's younger brother Sean raced in the Rookie class and finished a respectable ninth, with Mum and Dad equally proud of his efforts over the weekend. The mid pack of Rookie drivers provided some of the best 3 wide racing to be seen outside of NASCAR in the States.

All Midget and Rookie driver competing received a participation trophy at the presentation evening.

"Darwin Karting Association always puts on such a well run meeting, with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in the tropical winter sunshine." The O'Reilly family highly recommend the NT Titles for karters who love their racing to be fast and clean.

The 2012 Nationals at Darwin will be one to remember so start planning soon how to get yourself and your gear up there. Link it in with some Barra' fishing, a trip out to Litchfield or Kakadu NP's, or maybe and a sunset cruise on Darwin harbour.

Lachlan in his speech at the trophy presentation thanked the following people and sponsors:

"Mum and Dad for bringing me to NT State Titles and Dad for setting up the kart, my brother Sean for his support and company travelling up, Tony Grant from Lismore Kart Club for his ongoing assistance, Graham Armstrong for building an awesome engine, Troy Hunt for the "Top Gun" driver training, Azzurro Karts Australia and Smart Ecosystems."